

## REMINISCENCES

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The Rev. Dr. Denslow spoke somewhat as follows:

Mr. President and Fellow-Members of the Torrey Botanical Club: I am quite aware that I appear to-day as a relic. When I tell you that I attended early meetings of the Torrey Club while a school-boy in Brooklyn, you will readily understand that there will be little of scientific accuracy in my recollections of that distant time. That I was allowed to attend the meetings in the Herbarium at the School of Mines was due in part to the fact that my uncle, W. W. Denslow, was a member of the Club and in part to the great kindness of Dr. Torrey. I was present at the dinner on December 20, 1867, but I recall distinctly only that Dr. Gray was present, as well as Dr. Torrey, and that the occasion was most impressive to my boyish imagination. It was my first function of that sort and I probably exaggerate the number present; but my memory has always reported a long table and a goodly company.

It is to my uncle that I owe my introduction to botany. I made many field-excursions with him and his friends and worked in holiday times on his herbarium. My beginnings of botanical knowledge were thus practical and concrete. Whether there is pedagogical suggestion in this, I do not assert. Probably a certain intensity of interest and application, which is a family trait, contributed to my early enthusiasm. Certainly I gained a life-long interest in the study of plants; and this avocation has not only contributed much of pleasure but has helped distinctly in shaping my mental life.

It was for little more than three years that I was able to attend with some regularity the meetings of the Club. Then college life in New Haven, followed by teaching and professional study, kept me fully occupied elsewhere. I bound up my few volumes of the *Bulletin* and found scant time for botany. Still I continued to

collect and exchange, having inherited my uncle's duplicates and some of his correspondents, until my herbarium became too large to be lodged conveniently in a rectory. I sold it for a nominal sum to Hobart College, reserving only the Orchidaceae. But I continued to study this family, from time to time, in the midst of a busy parochial life. After being away from the vicinity of New York for more than twenty years, I came to my present position in 1902; and it was a great pleasure, after getting fitted to my new harness, to renew my active association with the Torrey Botanical Club. It is seldom that I can attend a meeting, but I have and read its publications; and you will readily understand that I get to the Botanical Garden as often as I can and that I find there always the kindest welcome from all whom I meet.